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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

18 November 1955

STAFF MEMORANDUM NO. 80-55

SUBJECT: New Estimate on Afghanistan

DOCUMENT NO. 33
 NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☒
☐ DECLASSIFIED
 CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S (C)
 NEXT REVIEW DATE: 1990
 AUTH: HR 70-2
 DATE: 12 MARCH 80 REVIEWER: 018567

1. Attached are draft terms of reference for a new estimate on Afghanistan. Although the Afghan situation has generally developed along the lines laid down in NIE 53-54, the continuing build-up of Soviet economic influence, the hardening of Prime Minister Daud's attitude toward Pakistan following the latter's failure to have him dismissed or disciplined earlier this year, and the impending visit of the Soviet No. 1 Road Company all justify a new look at the situation.

2. We believe these terms of reference should go out as soon as possible, so that the agencies can begin work on their contributions. However, we consider it desirable to hold off a completion of the paper until after the Soviet visit to Kabul beginning approximately 12 December. Any paper turned out sooner would almost inevitably tend to be a glorified current intelligence paper, produced in haste, rather than the sober reassessment of the longer term outlook which we believe our customers would be most desirous of having.

3. Accordingly, we propose the following schedule:

18 November T/R to agencies

23 November IAC Reps consider T/R

7 December Agency contributions due (to be supplemented during or after Soviet visit)

21 December Board draft to agencies

27 December IAC Reps meet

2 January IAC meets

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